



RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE CO., INC.

Your One-Stop Communications, Information and Entertainment Source

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Tate:

I am writing to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

Rural Telephone is in the unique position of being a rural ILEC, with a wholly owned subsidiary, Nex-Tech, operating as a CLEC, which owns 47.5 percent of a wireless CETC. We still strongly believe that the Joint Board's recommendation of an interim emergency cap on CETCs is a good first step to stem the escalation of support to CETCs, while a longer term solution is crafted, even though it may result in a decrease in revenue for our company.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Sevier
CEO/General Manager

RSG/ckw

c: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell